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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
**Office of Current Intelligence**  
**27 May 1966**

**INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM**

**The Situation in South Vietnam**  
**(As of 9:00 A.M., EDT)**

**Hue**

1. There have been no reports of violence involving Americans thus far today in Hue, although the situation there remains tense. A planned student march on the US Consulate late this afternoon apparently did not materialize. However, 45 US civilians and employees were evacuated from Hue this afternoon as a precautionary measure.

2. This morning, some 100 Buddhist monks were met by a US Consular official at the barricades outside the Consulate building, where he received a note addressed to President Johnson expressing Buddhist intentions to conduct a 48-hour hunger strike in protest of US support for the Ky government. Later, the monks moved through the barricades and took up fasting positions just outside the Consulate.

3. Lt. Col. Phan Van Khoa, Thua Thien Province chief and Mayor of Hue, has been in charge of some 500 Vietnamese First Division troops deployed around the Consulate and other US installations in the city since the sacking of the USIS library yesterday. This morning, however, Khoa told a US official that he did not have the authority to order the troops to open fire in defense of US property. Some of the troops on duty were reported to be mingling with 300-400 civilians outside the barricades at the Consulate, and others helped the procession of monks through the barricades.

State Department review completed

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4. According to the press, students demonstrated outside Col. Khoa's headquarters this afternoon. Later, Khoa reportedly resigned his position as mayor and withdrew to a command post about five miles southeast of the city. No further details on this development are yet available.

Saigon

5. Buddhist monks attempting to organize demonstrations against the government were active in the capital again today. The US Embassy reported that such efforts at four separate locations in the city this morning were unsuccessful. Later press reports, however, indicate that the monks were able to organize a crowd of some 2,000 persons before riot police were able to disperse them.

6. Elsewhere, press reports state that about 12,000 persons staged an antigovernment, demonstration in the capital of Quang Tri Province today. No Buddhist monks were present, according to the press item.

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Ky-Thi Meeting

7. Premier Ky today flew to the US Marine base at Chu Lai for a meeting with former I Corps commander General Thi, who arrived by US helicopter. Details of their talk are not yet available. Premier Ky later went to Da Nang, where he told newsmen that troops would remain in the city as long as necessary. However, he also stated that the restoration of government control over Hue "is better done by diplomacy."

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